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REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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DATE DISTR.

17 May 1955

SUBJECT

Soviet Supervision in Issuance of Government

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PLACE ACQUIRED Declaration

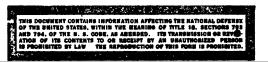
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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.



THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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- The Government Declaration made by Grotewohl on 2nd March 1955 had to be revised twice. On 25th February, prior to the final vote on the Paris Agreements in the Bonn Parliament, Pushkin demanded that all military and political threats against West Germany be eliminated from the Government Declaration. The Soviets also demanded that the term "definite ratification" should not be used in this declaration because France and also other states had not yet ratified the Paris Agreements. Grotewohl was informed that his declaration should keep within the limits of the Moscow declaration of 2nd December 1954 and the Soviet declaration on Germany on 5th January 1955. The Kremlin allegedly told the GDR Government that the organization of the popular movement against the rearmament of West Germany and the holding of a plebiscite in this question was much more important than threats of counter-measures, which, moreover, might give the SPD and the DGB a pretext for withdrawing from this popular movement in West Germany. Restraint was also advisable in view of the bourgeois circles which might otherwise deny their support to the formation of a "Volksfront" (popular front).
- 2. After Mikoyan arrived in Fast Berlin on 26 February, the Government Declaration was again revised at a conference attended by Mikoyan, Pushkin, Pieck, and the members of the SED Politburo. Mikoyan stated that the speech made by Dr. Dehlar at the Boan Parliament revealed a rift in the Adenauer Coalition. This indicated that an influential group of West German capitalists who did not want or were unable to participate in the expected armament boom was growing in strength and was opposing the West German Government to an ever increasing degree. This group must be encouraged and it would therefore be inopportune to antagonize them by premature military threats and the creation of new political facts. Mikeyan referred in this connection to the British intention to manufacture the H-bomb and other atomic weapons. Mikoyan believed that in making this declaration Churchill intended to reassure France in a critical stage of the ratification of the Paris Agreements, He also wanted to show the trade-union leaders that the USSR would be ready to negotiate also after the final ratification of the Paris Agreements because it must fear the western superiority in the field of atomic defense. Mikoyan also stated that it was the responsibility of the military experts to increase the military potential of the Eastern Bloc and to be prepared for any emergency. The resolutions taken in Moscow from 29 November to 2 December 1954 would be implemented unless the rearmament of West Germany was cancelledo

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3. On the suggestion of Mikoyan, the Government Declaration made by Crotewohl was exclusively concerned with the question of a plebiscite in all-Germany along the lines decided in the Paulskirche in Frankfurt/Main. The declaration was then framed with the primary view to its propaganda effect. It is to serve the period between the ratification of the Paris Agreement and the time when the taking of more direct actions, such as strikes, etc., comes.

1. Compent:

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the draft of Grotewohl's declaration of 2 March 1955 contained a paragraph on measures to be taken for the protection of the GDR which included the closing of the zonal boundary, a statement on the introduction of universal military training and note on the establishment of a defense ministry. This paragraph was cancelled at the intervention of Mikoyan and Pushkin.

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